



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(MBHB Case No. 00-669-A)**

Application of: Reeve, et al.)
Filed: August 13, 2001) Group Art Unit: 1621
Serial No.: 09/928,560) Examiner: Ernest G. Therkorn
Title: Process for the Fractionation of)
Polymers)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JANUARY 22, 2003

Responsive to the Office Action of January 22, 2003, please enter the following Amendment and reexamine the application in view of the following remarks:

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

- (a) Cancel Claims 5,8 and 20
 - (b) Add Claim 21
 - (c) Amend claims 1-4, 6, 9-19 as follows:

1. (amended) A process for the fractionation or purification of polydisperse water soluble polymers that are composed of repeating units that do not contain functional groups capable of carrying a charge at neutral pH comprising:
 - a. dissolving a known amount of the polymer in water to form a clear solution,
 - b. equilibrating the solution at a temperature that allows the formation of an opaque solution when an aqueous soluble, multivalent salt is added to the solution,

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